

AROUND THE CORPS IN BRIEF

Iraqi police chief helps reduce attacks

CAMP HURRICANE POINT, Iraq — Marines here received a welcome addition to their unexploded ordnance pit recently from the chief of Iraqi police in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

The chief discovered a spent American-made 155 mm howitzer casing near his home and called his fellow police officers to help disarm the improvised explosive device (IED). After rendering the bomb safe, the chief turned the device to Marines from 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment.

“The IED was packed with plastic explosives in the fuse well,” said Staff Sgt. Jamey D. Finch, combat engineer. “Then whoever made it took out the shipping plug and drilled it out for the electrical system. When they screwed it back on, it looked just like a basic, safe round.”

The policemen separated the electric blasting cap from the body of the device to make the bomb secure.

The IED, which will be destroyed by Marines from the battalion’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, was nearly 3 feet in length and weighed nearly 20 pounds.

The Marines rely on the people of Ar Ramadi to locate IEDs. Many, though, are at first reluctant to come forward with information.

According to Harris, it’s not unusual for the police chief to turn in weapons of this sort. Iraqi police turned over mortar tubes, rocket launchers, rifles and other kinds of weapons systems in recent weeks.

Generals discuss tactics, visit troops in Al Asad

ALASAD, Iraq — Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, commanding general, Marine Forces Central, and Lt. Gen. James T. Conway, commanding general, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, were welcomed to the air station March 28 by Maj. Gen. James F. Amos, commanding general, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

The visiting generals were here to meet with Marines and sailors and get a firsthand update on the MAW’s tactical situation.

The visit began with a situational update provided by the 3rd MAW battle staff. During the brief, the MARCENT commander emphasized the importance of the mission here in Iraq.

Following the brief, the generals departed to tour the air station and visit the Leathernecks of 3rd MAW.

During the tour, the generals drove the perimeter and even stopped at a guard post so that Lt. Gen. Gregson could meet the Marines on duty there.

Though Lt. Gen. Gregson’s schedule was very tight, the group also made a stop on the flight line at Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167, where they got an up-close look at the dust abatement issues that face the rotary wing aircraft here.

“Dust abatement is a big deal,” said

CONTRACT,

Continued from Page 1

where it starts.”

Before heading to the Peatross Parade Deck, they were given a warm drill instructor-style welcome by five barking drill instructors upon arrival at the yellow footprints.

After being told to form up on the footprints, they were all given the same brief recruits receive just prior to heading through the silver portals where thousands of Marines have passed before them. After the brief, they proceeded over to the parade deck where they watched the graduation of Golf Co., 2nd RTBn.

“Initially there were some facial expressions that were indicative of ‘Oh my gosh, what are we doing?’” explained Deloach. “But after they got past the drill instructors yelling to get off the bus, they gave rave

reviews, and they were in awe of the graduation. It gave them more meaning on the Marines they’re out there supporting.”

Contracting officers support Marines by handling the purchase/contract of all items that are not available through the

Marine Corps supply system, such as mattresses for the recruit barracks, shooting targets for WFTBn., as well as alterations for recruit uniforms.

Therefore, Marines would not be made without the support and services that are contracted

“Without contractors, recruits wouldn’t get trained, they wouldn’t get qualified with a weapon, they wouldn’t have uniforms that fit them properly, they wouldn’t [pass swim qualification] and they wouldn’t have any place to sleep.”

-Master Sgt. Julia Deloach, procurement chief for the RCO

through the Regional Contracting Office, said Deloach.

“Without contractors, recruits wouldn’t get trained, they wouldn’t get qualified with a weapon, they wouldn’t have uniforms that fit them properly, they wouldn’t [pass swim qualification] and they wouldn’t have any place to sleep,” said Deloach.

Walking away from the graduation, each participant had a better idea of what it took to make the Marines who continue to defend the nation today.

“I’ve only been with the DoD for

two-and-a-half years, and this is the first time I’ve seen something that helps me appreciate what it takes to be a Marine,” said Holly Powell, deputy regional contracting officer for MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. “It was truly an eye-opening experience.”



USS BEALLEAU WOOD – Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit look on as an AV-8B Harrier from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166 (Reinforced), 11th MEU, takes off from the USS Belleau Wood during the MEU's first Expeditionary Strike Group Exercise, March 25.

Takeoff ...

meaning was in the spirit of giving.

The \$12,000 raised by the Mardi Gras Benefit Auction will be added to the OSC’s sales from their cook book “Wine and Dine in 29” and their Marine Corps emblem cookie cutter sales, equaling \$13,000 for their program.

Scholarship recipients are high school seniors enrolled in a vocational school, college or university for the fall 2004 school year, and grant recipients are selected from various non-profit organizations that help the local military community.

Marine units provide basic security for MAW

AL ASAD, Iraq — Every Marine is a rifleman. These words are drilled into the minds of recruits by drill instructors and are sealed when they enter into the operating forces of the Marine Corps.

In Iraq, being a rifleman is what Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, a reserve infantry company from Johnson City, Tenn., and 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense are doing in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II as a security element in charge of perimeter security for the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

“We have been tasked with convoy and external base security,” said Capt. Allen C. Laughlin, 2nd platoon commander, L. Co. “Our job is to get the Marines from 3rd MAW where they need to go so they can accom-

plish their missions from their operating bases.”

Laughlin is an activated reservist in support of OIF II. He has enjoyed the non-traditional role of assisting the air wing instead of the air wing supporting the infantry.

The Executive Officer of L. Co. 3/24, Capt. Chuck McGregor, is in charge of ensuring the Marines in his company accomplish their mission.

“Some of our Marines are instructing the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps,” he said. Prior to the Marines arriving, ICDC training was put to the side. “When we arrived, we made sure they had uniforms, hot chow and some of the friction went away.”

Another element of the security battalion is made up of Marines from the 3rd LAAD, a Camp Pendleton-based unit used as internal and external security.

Quantico Marines compete for Athlete of the Year awards

MCB QUANTICO, Va. — Two athletes from Quantico were nominated to be the Marine Corps Athlete of the Year for 2003.

According to Marine Administrative Message 106/04, the Marines nominated were selected by their installation as the 2003 U.S. Marine Corps installation female and male athletes of the year.

Major Michael S. Holt, officer promo-

tion action officer, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and Staff Sgt. Jamie L. Troxel, a former member of Marine Helicopter Squadron One, who has recently executed permanent change of station orders to Okinawa, Japan, were nominated by their units, and ultimately chosen as Quantico’s male and female athletes of the year by Marine Corps Community Services here.

Holt, who was selected for his success in mountain biking, also founded the Quantico Mountain Biking Team, and was credited with starting mountain biking races on base.

Troxel was selected for her success in bodybuilding. Her 2003 accomplishments included first place in the lightweight division at the 2003 National Physique Committee Team Universe Bodybuilding Championship in New York; a third-place effort at the National Physique committee USA, a national bodybuilding competition in Las Vegas last summer; and wins at other various bodybuilding competitions that year.

Being rated as one of the top 10 women lightweight bodybuilders in the U.S. and one of only two national level bodybuilders Quantico had to offer in 2003 aided in her being chosen as female athlete of the year. The message that announces the official winners is expected in April.

Corps deploys trained Iraqi advisors

MCB QUANTICO, Va. — The Marine Corps, through the Security, Cooperation, Education and Training Center aboard Quantico, recently concluded its first training course for new Iraqi Army Advisors with the graduation and immediate deployment of 20 Marines March 12.

Formerly named the Coalition Special Warfare Center, the SCETC mission is to form, train, equip, deploy, sustain and redeploy Marines in support of combatant commanders initiatives. It was recently tasked to design and execute the new Iraqi army advisors training regiment for Marines to begin supporting the Iraqi Army in becoming a self-sufficient force.

Combatant commanders initiatives are military-to-military engagements that build relationships and strengthen alliances within the commander’s area of operations.

The Marine Corps will account for 25 percent of the total number of advisors that will be provided by U.S. armed forces. Approximately 165 Marines will be tasked for the six-month deployment throughout the program’s entirety.

“Although few in numbers, these Marines will have a significant impact on the ability of the newly formed state to defend itself,” said Maj. Andy Milburn, security cooperation coordinator, SCETC.

Compiled by the MCRD Parris Island Public Affairs Office

